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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 514, April 6, 9 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 514, INFORMATION STOCKHOLM 143, COPENHAGEN 123, OSLO 114, LONDON 460, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

Following is summary of speech by Foreign Minister Karjalainen April 5 at Finland-Soviet Union Society celebration of 14th anniversary Finno-Soviet Assistance Pact:

In celebrating pact, it appropriate recall October 30 Soviet note and subsequent successful Novosibirsk talks that threw such exceptionally strong light on importance of pact to Finno-Soviet relations. Despite fancies abroad that note reflected conflict of Finnish and Soviet interests, it added nothing new in principle to Finno-Soviet relations. Note reflected tense international situation and we understood that Soviets, by own assessment, worried Finland might be drawn into sphere of military operations. We understood it would be useful exchange opinions. In difficult situation, Finland's neutrality stood test arising from tension in Europe and direct danger of war. Novosibirsk confirmed that Finnish neutrality and Soviet security interests compatible. Nor is this contradictory to interests of others. Good Finno-Soviet relations a stabilizing factor for whole north.

Trade with Soviets vital part Finnish foreign trade and we will continue develop it further as factor in well-being of our nations. Brezhnev visit was highlight of last year. Meeting between leading statesmen valuable and in many ways irreplaceable means promote mutual understanding which always needed for continuous nurturing of peace. Increasing friendship activity between Finnish and Soviet towns gratifying.

Central Finnish

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-2- 514, April 6, 9 p.m. from Helsinki

Central Finnish task is maintenance of confidence between Finland and USSR. Without it, Finnish neutrality built on sand. Confidence between Finland and USSR a precious cause. Recent events in Finno-Soviet relations justify conviction nothing in future will be able upset favorable development in our relations.

Text pouched today.

GUFLER

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